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ABSTRACT

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation began surveying Kansas City area teens during the 1984-85 school year. The Kauffman Teen Survey now addresses two sets of issues for teens. Teen Health Behaviors, addressed in this report, have been a focus of the survey since its inception. The report focuses on teen use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in the 2000-01 academic year. This report provides current and historical information about the usage rates of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other substances, as reported by teenagers who attend greater Kansas City are public schools. Students in 8th-, 10th-, and 12th- grade are asked to complete surveys to report how often they use a variety of drugs. It is encouraging to note that a number of decreases in the usage rates of specific substances appeared between the academic years 1999-2000 and 2000-01, and that both the number and size of increases in usage rates were low overall. (GCP)

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CG031637

Kauffman Teen Survey

An Annual Report on Teen Health Behaviors: Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs among 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-grade Students in Greater Kansas City

1991-92 to 2000-01

RESEARCH EVALUATION

EWING MARION KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private foundation that strives to achieve the vision of self-sufficient people in healthy communities. Our mission is to research and identify the unfulfilled needs of society and to develop, implement and/or fund breakthrough solutions that have a lasting impact and offer a choice and hope for the future.

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Data were analyzed and interpreted by the Resource Development Institute for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

To request additional copies of the survey findings, contact Connie Morgan at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2046, 816-932-1223, cmorgan@emkf.org.

INTRODUCTION

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation began surveying Kansas City area teens during the 1984-85 school year. The Kauffman Teen Survey now addresses two sets of issues for teens. ***Teen Health Behaviors***, addressed in this report, have been a focus of the survey since its inception. The report focuses on teen use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in 2000-01. More recently we began a separate report that examines teen opinions, activities, and concerns about issues unrelated to substance abuse. That study is called the ***Voices of Youth***.

This report provides current and historical information about the usage rates of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other substances, as reported by teenagers who attend greater Kansas City area public schools. Each year, for 17 years, Kauffman Foundation associates trained as data collectors have administered the survey to 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-graders. Students are asked to complete surveys to report how often they use a variety of drugs. They also blow into a balloon to measure the level of carbon monoxide in exhaled breath.

Participating school districts:

In Kansas	In Missouri	
Blue Valley	Blue Springs	Kansas City
Kansas City	Center	North Kansas City
Olathe	Grandview	Park Hill
Shawnee Mission	Hickman Mills	Raytown
Turner	Independence	

During the 2000-01 school year, 4,211 8th-graders, 2,663 10th-graders, and 2,605 12th-graders from 14 school districts completed surveys. The margin of error is 1.5% for 8th-grade, 1.9% for 10th-grade, and 2.0% for 12th grade. Proportional samples were drawn from each of the above districts to comprise the community report. Each district also received a report based on their own students.

LONG-TERM TRENDS IN USAGE RATES

The Overall Trend

Several years ago, a scale was devised to measure overall substance use, and a baseline was established for future reference. The scale is keyed to the Kauffman Teen Survey and is not comparable to scales based on other instruments. However, it yields values that are useful within greater Kansas City and that can be compared from grade to grade and year to year.

In response to changes in survey items, the composition of the group of measures that make up the overall score has been adjusted. The trend line in the data used this year is not affected by reports of the use of smokeless tobacco in the seven days preceding survey administration, nor does it include reports of the use of steroids or ecstasy, because information on usage rates of these drugs has not been collected for a long enough period of time.

It is encouraging to note that a number of decreases in the usage rates of specific substances appeared between 1999-00 and 2000-01, and that both the number and size of increases in usage rates were low overall.

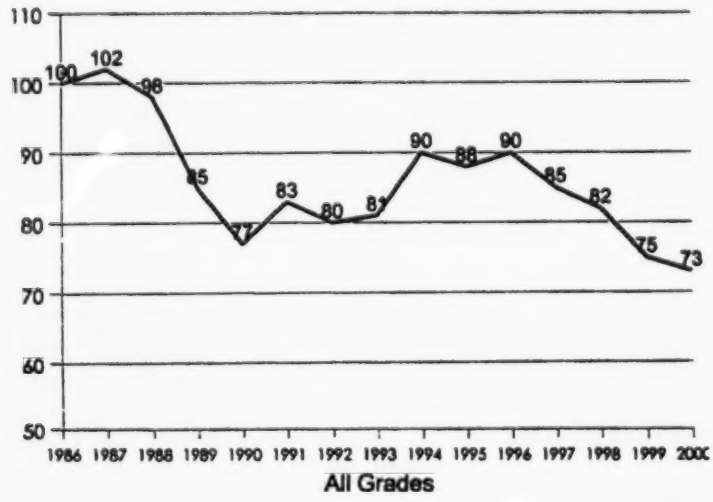
All Grades

This figure shows the 15-year curve of usage rates for all grades combined. This graph depicts an overall upward, then downward trend, similar to the curves which will be seen for each individual grade. The benchmark, 100, reflects overall usage in 1986-87, when the first use drugs other than alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana were reported.

This figure shows peak usage in the 1987-88 school year. In the most recent year, the curve reaches its lowest point.

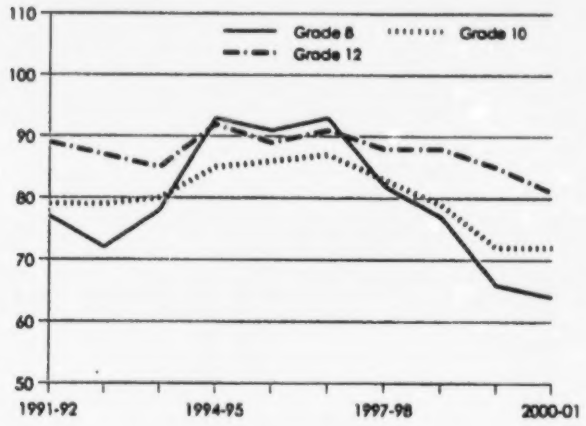
All Drugs: 15-Year Usage Trends

The accompanying figure shows the year-to-year overall rates of substance use reported by



students in the greater Kansas City area. Beginning this year, separate curves have been constructed for 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-graders for the past 10 years. Averages have effectively been tracked for 15 years, though this is the first time the calculations by grade have been presented.

Usage Trends by Grade



For each grade a reference point or benchmark was established by averaging usage rates for 19 measures of the use of 12 substances and setting the resulting value at 100. All other points on the curves for each grade were then expressed as percentages of these values.

The procedure for constructing these curves differs in minor ways from that on the previous page. The benchmark (value of 100) remains the average overall rate of substance use in 1986-87, the first year in which data were collected on self-reported use of cocaine, inhalants, LSD, downers, uppers, opiates, and smokeless tobacco. However, in the three curves shown in the figure above, each grade has its own benchmark. For example, the benchmark for 8th-graders is the rate of use by 8th-graders in 1986-87 (not necessarily 100%), and the rate of use by all respondents in all grades.

The Overall Trend is Downward

In the previous figure all values for the past 10 years are less than 100. That means that all average usage scores are lower than their respective benchmarks, which in turn means that for at least 10 years, rates of substance use at all grade levels have been lower than they were in 1986-87. Only five scores exceed 90 for this time period: three at Grade 8 and two at Grade 12.

In many ways, teen substance use in Kansas City appears to fluctuate in five year trends. All three curves reached their highest levels between 1994-95 and 1996-97. All were at historic lows in 2000-01. The values for 2000-01 also reveal that, in relation to their rates of consumption in 1986-87, the largest reduction has occurred at the 8th-grade level, and the smallest at the 12th-grade level. Also, as compared to baseline rates established in 1986-87, the results of several years of decreases were found to be greatest for 8th-graders and least for 12th-graders. Even so, for many substances, 2000-01 use has returned to levels seen 10 years ago.

Grade-by-Grade Trends

Among 8th-graders, the first four years immediately preceding the period shown in the previous figure were characterized by a somewhat rapid decline of about 13 points from the baseline value of 100 in 1986-87. This was followed by a leveling off. Eighth-graders' score of 77 in 1991-92 is about the same as it had been in the two preceding years. The curve for 8th-graders shows a small decline in 1992-93, then a rise for two years to a peak in 1994-95, where it stays for two more years. Beginning in 1997-98 the direction of the curve is sharply downward, and that direction has remained the same through the most recent data collection period. The usage rate of 8th-graders in 2000-01 is only 64% of its baseline rate 13 years ago.

Among 10th-graders, the first four years of the survey were characterized by a series of gradual declines. The score of 79 for 10th-graders in 1991-92 continues the downward trend, as a 4-point decrease from its value of 83 in the preceding year. The rest of the curve for 10th-grade usage rates is flatter than that for 8th-graders, but it shows nearly the same trends. Increases begin in 1995-96, but they do not peak for 10th-graders until 1996-97. A decline begins in 1997-98 and continues through 2000-01, culminating in a value that is 72% of the baseline score of 100 in 1986-87.

In the early years of the survey, 12th-graders' scores showed little change for some time. They remained near the baseline level during that period, then dropped 7 points in 1989-90, and another 6 points in 1990-91. In 1991-92 their score went up 2 points to 89. Since then their curve remains comparatively flat, although it shows evidence of rising to a higher level in 1994-95 and starting back down in 1997-98. In the most recent data collection period, the usage rate among 12th-graders stands at 81% of its baseline value.

Cigarettes

- *Among **8th-graders**, values on all measures of cigarette use have fallen steadily to another record low rate of use in 2000-01.*

  *Almost 15% of **8th-graders** used cigarettes in the past month.*

- *Cigarette use by **10th-graders** continued the trend of slight decreases on measures of recent use.*

  *About one-quarter of **10th-graders** used cigarettes in the past month.*

- *Cigarette use by **seniors** declined modestly for the second consecutive year. However, more than half of high-school seniors say they have smoked cigarettes.*

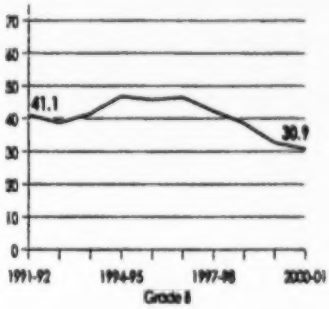
  *A little over 30% of the **seniors** had used cigarettes in the past month.*

Cigarettes

Ever Use*

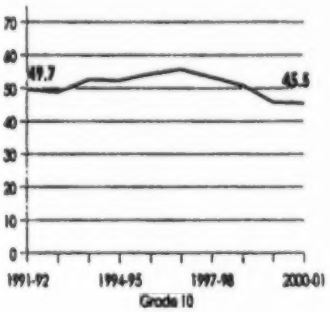
Grade 8

In 1994-95 the percentage of Kansas City area 8th-graders ever using cigarettes peaked at 46.8%. In 2000-01, for the third consecutive year, 8th-graders' incidence of use at any time in life is at an historic low– almost 16 points lower than it was six years ago.



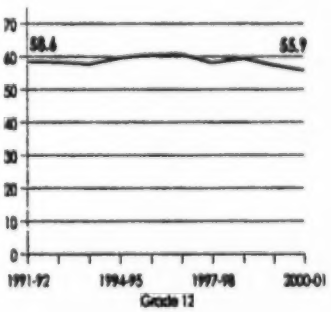
Grade 10

A five-year trend of increase in the percentage of 10th-graders who ever used cigarettes culminated in 1996-97. Although reductions since then brought the rate to an historic low for the Kansas City community in 1999-00, little change was observed in the findings for 2000-01.



Grade 12

Among seniors the percentage who have ever used cigarettes declined by about 2 points. The resulting value of 55.9% is another historic low, and is about 5 points lower than the highs of 1995-96 and 1996-97.

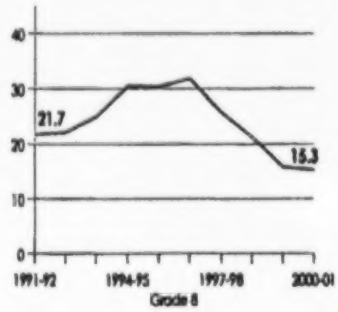


**Ever use is defined as ever had a cigarette in lifetime.*

10

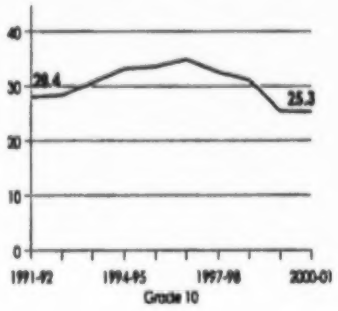
Grade 8

Since 1996-97 the percentage of 8th-graders who used cigarettes in the 30 days preceding survey administration has steadily declined. The decrease in 2000-01 was much less noticeable, but the resulting value of 15.3% is still the lowest ever at this grade.



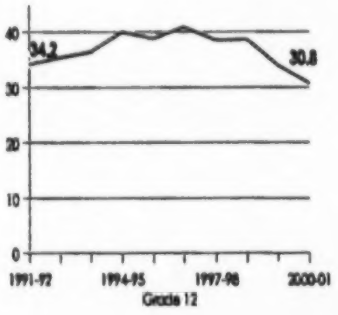
Grade 10

The percentage of 10th-graders who used cigarettes in the 30 days preceding the survey peaked in 1996-97. Since then it has declined four years in a row, with a decrease in 2000-01 of one-tenth of a point. The only year when this rate was lower was 1989-90, when it was 0.5 points lower than in 2000-01.



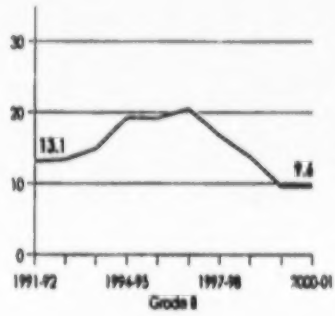
Grade 12

The percentage of 12th-graders who used cigarettes in the preceding 30 days fell about three points in 2000-01. It is now at its lowest level since 1990-91. The decrease from last year is statistically significant.



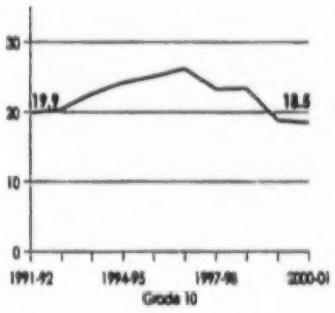
Grade 8

The percentages of 8th-graders who used cigarettes in the preceding seven days has declined for four years. The current percentage is the lowest in the history of the survey.



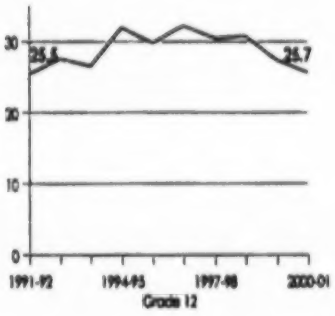
Grade 10

Like the curve for 8th-graders, the curve for 10th-graders declines over the course of several years. The rate and magnitude of the changes are not as rapid for 10th-graders. Nevertheless, the 2000-01 usage rate of 18.5% is the lowest for 10th-graders since the survey began.



Grade 12

Following several years of stability at about 30%, the 7-day usage rate among seniors went down for two years in a row. The decrease has amounted to more than 6 points since 1996-97. The overall rate today is within 0.2 points of what it was 10 years ago.



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Alcohol

- *Last year some measures of alcohol use by **8th-** and **10th-graders** reached record lows. In 2000-01 usage rates changed little at either grade and remained very low (compared to previous rates) despite small increases.*

  *A little more than 30% of **8th-graders** had used alcohol in the past month.*

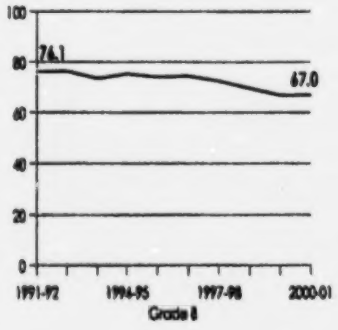
  *Among **10th-graders**, nearly half had used alcohol in the past month.*

- *Among **seniors** usage rates decreased on two measures, and on two of three measures percentages are at all-time low values.*

  *Nearly six of ten **12th-graders** had used alcohol in the past month.*

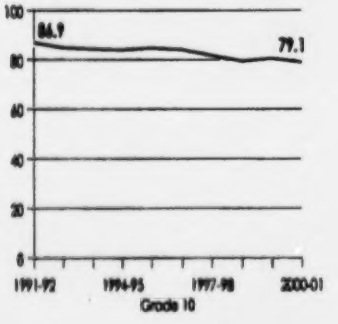
Grade 8

The percentage of 8th-graders who have ever used alcohol was virtually unchanged in 2000-01. It went from 66.9% to 67.0%, an increase of one-tenth of one percent.



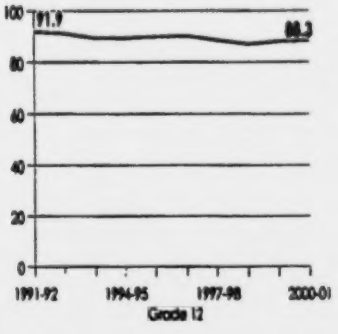
Grade 10

On this measure, usage rates among 10th-graders have remained stable at about 80% for three years. They are among the lowest ever obtained from 10th-graders on this survey.



Grade 12

Among Kansas City area seniors, the slow but continuous decreases in the percentage who have ever used alcohol came to an end last year. In 2000-01 their rate of use at any time in life went up slightly for the second year. Nevertheless, the most recent usage rate is among the lowest in survey history.

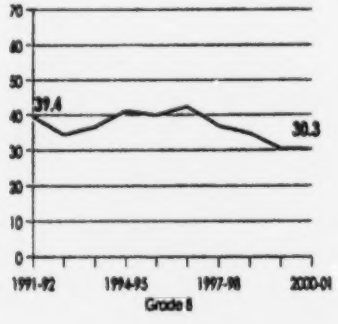


**Ever use is defined as at least a sip in lifetime.*

14

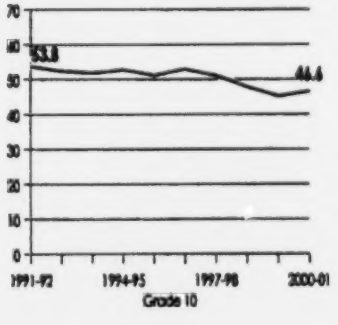
Grade 8

In 2000-01 the percentage of 8th-graders who used alcohol in the preceding 30 days declined for the fourth consecutive year. It is at its lowest level since the survey began.



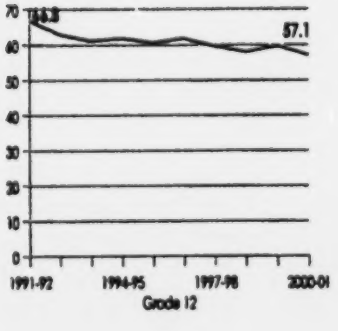
Grade 10

This year's data saw an end to the gradual decline in the percentage of 10th-grade students who used alcohol in the preceding 30 days. An increase of 1.4 points was seen this year.



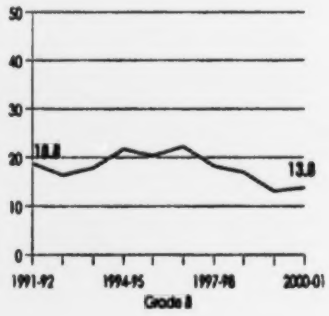
Grade 12

Among Kansas City area seniors, the percentages of students who used alcohol in the preceding 30 days declined 2 points in 2000-01. It is now at its lowest point in survey history.



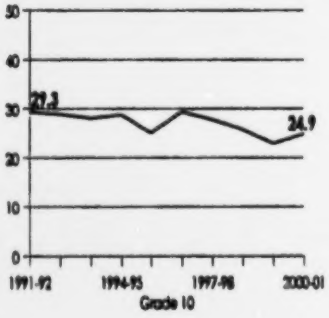
Grade 8

The percentage of 8th-graders who used alcohol in the preceding week had declined for four consecutive years. The 2000-01 percentage is the second lowest in survey history.



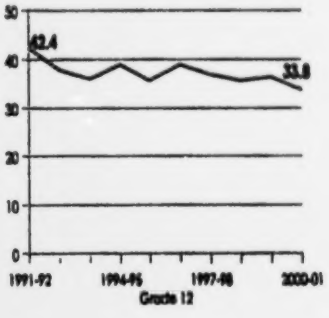
Grade 10

The rate of alcohol use among 10th-graders reached an historic low of 22.9% in 1999-2000. In 2000-01 the rate went up 2 points.



Grade 12

The slow downward trend in findings from 12th-graders continued in 2000-01. A decrease of about 2.5% brought the usage rate to its lowest point in survey history for 12th-graders.



Marijuana

- *"Virtually unchanged" is the phrase that best describes the rates of marijuana use on all measures at all grades in 2000-01.*

  *About 13% of **8th-graders** had used marijuana in the past month.*

- *The greatest change reported by **8th-graders** was on 7-day use, but it increased only 1 point.*

- ***Tenth-grade** students reported small increases on two measures (30-day and 7-day use). The greatest increase was less than a single point.*

  *About 22% of **10th-graders** had used marijuana in the past month.*

- ***Seniors** showed small declines on all three indicators, the greatest of which was 2.2 points on "ever use."*

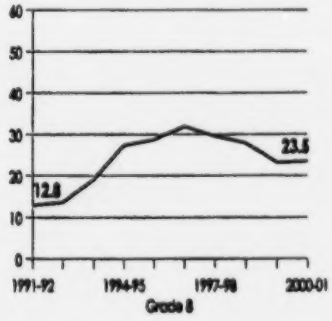
  About 26% had used marijuana in the past month.

- *Marijuana appears to have been the most resistant drug to prevention efforts. It has shown steady increases in the past 10 years.*

Ever Use*

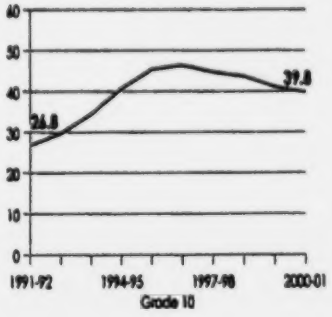
Grade 8

Ever use of marijuana reported by 8th-grade students increased 0.3 points from last year. However, the rate of ever use among 8th-graders has nearly doubled since 1991-92.



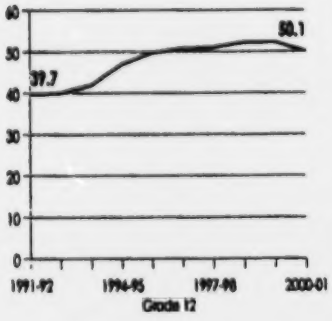
Grade 10

Use of marijuana by 10th-graders has been on a downward trend since 1997-98. In 2000-01 the rate of use continued to decline, with a drop of 1.4 points.



Grade 12

Although there have been slight fluctuations in the rates of ever use of marijuana reported by seniors, usage rates have tended to increase gradually. This pattern changed in 2000-01, with seniors reporting a decrease in ever use.

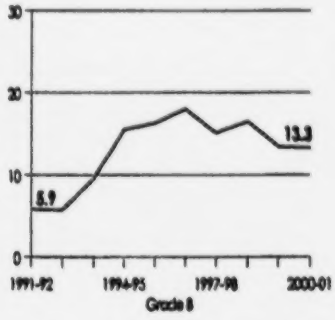


**Ever use is defined as ever had any marijuana in lifetime.*

18

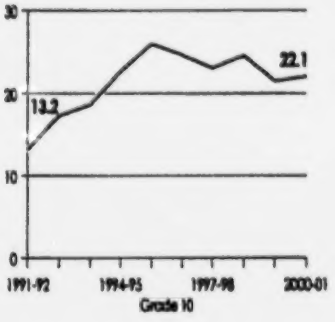
Grade 8

Eighth-graders in the Kansas City area have reported stable levels of 30-day marijuana use since 1994-95, fluctuating by only about three percentage points. In 2000-01 the level of use dropped slightly and is the lowest it has been for seven years. However, it is still more than double the rate reported in 1991-92.



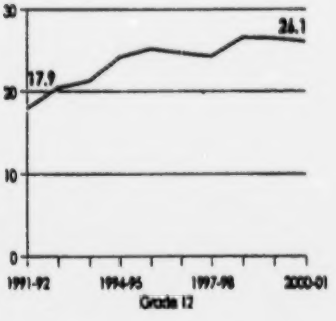
Grade 10

The number of Kansas City area 10th-graders who say they have used marijuana in the last 30 days has been fairly consistent since 1995-96. This year the level is at 22.1%, a slight increase form last year.



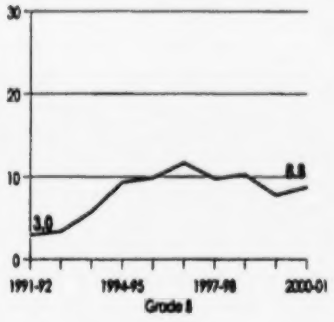
Grade 12

This year's level of 30-day marijuana use by seniors showed a slight decrease and continues the slight trend established in 1998-99.



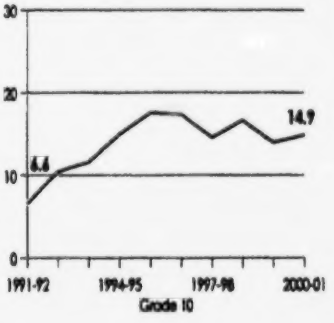
Grade 8

Seven-day marijuana use among 8th-graders rose slightly in 2000-01. Even so, it is the second lowest value reported in the last seven years.



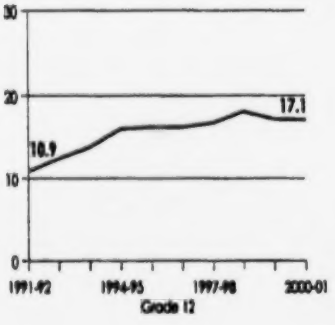
Grade 10

Seven-day marijuana use reported by 10th-graders in the Kansas City area went up slightly, by less than 1 point in 2000-01.



Grade 12

The 2000-01 level of 7-day marijuana use reported by seniors in the Kansas City area remains consistent with the levels reported since 1994-95, reduced slightly from last year.



Cocaine*

- *Rates of cocaine use were virtually unchanged among **8th-** and **10th-grade** students.*

  *—About 3% of **8th-graders,***
  *—5% of **10th-graders,** and*
  *—About 7% of the **12th-graders** stated they had ever tried cocaine or crack.*

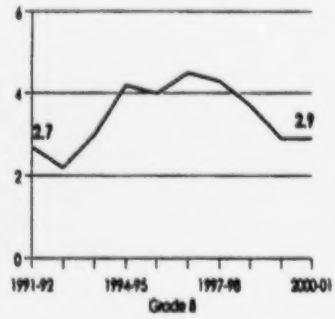
**Note: Use of powdered cocaine and "crack" cocaine are both reported as "cocaine."*

Ever* and 30-Day Use

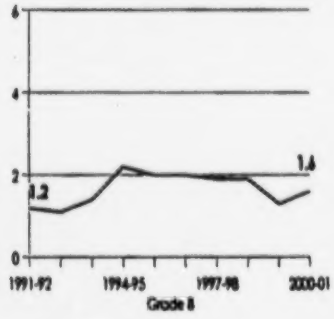
Grade 8

The percentages of 8th-graders who had used cocaine remained virtually unchanged in 2000-01, at less than 3%.

Ever Use



30-Day Use



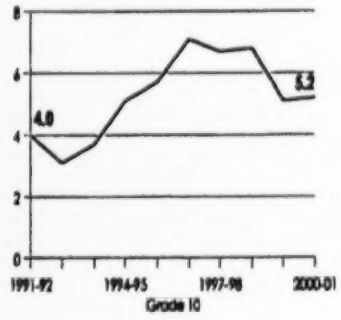
**Ever use is defined as ever had any cocaine or crack in lifetime.*

22

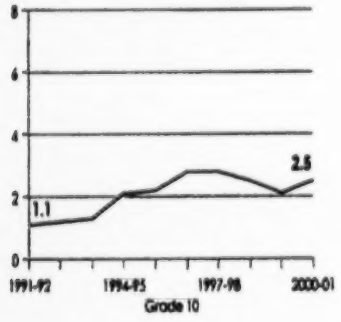
Grade 10

Among 10th-graders, as among 8th-graders, rates of cocaine use remained virtually unchanged in 2000-01. What changes there were amounted to less than half a percentage point.

Ever Use



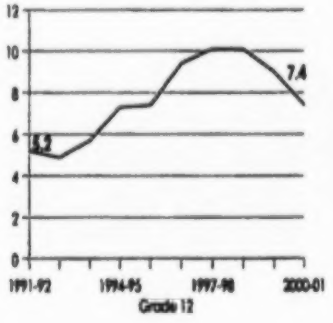
30-Day Use



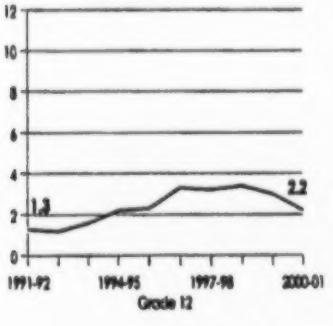
Grade 12

Last year's findings held out hope that a small downward trend may have begun in rates of use of cocaine by Kansas City area 12th-graders. The findings from 2000-01 offer additional encouragement. Values on both measures (ever use and 30-day use) went down, and the measure of recent use (30 days) fell below 3%.

Ever Use



30-Day Use



24

Smokeless Tobacco

(Males only)

- *Further declines in usage rates appeared among **8th-grade** males.*

  *About 11% of **8th-grade** males say they have ever tried chewing tobacco.*

- *Rates among **10th-** and **12th-grade** males remain nearly unchanged.*

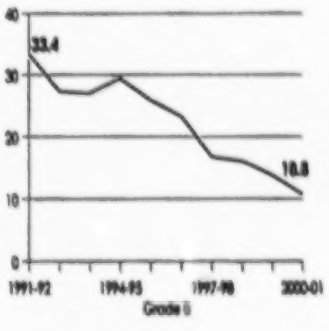
  *For ever use, rates were not quite 20% for **10th-grade** males, and not quite 30% for **12th-grade** males.*

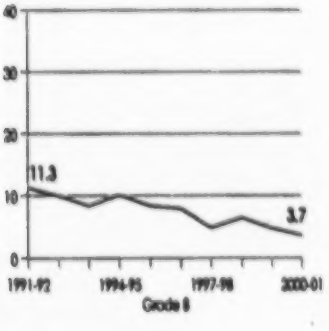
Smokeless Tobacco

Ever* and 30-Day Use (Males Only)

Grade 8

Once again, decreases appeared on both measures of the percentage of Kansas City area 8th-grade males who say they used smokeless tobacco. Both measures continue to be at historically low levels. In fact, the decrease of ever use from last year is statistically significant.





26

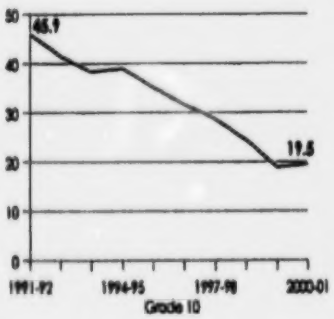
**Ever use is defined as ever had any chewing tobacco or snuff in lifetime.*

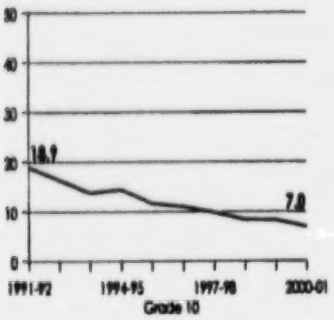
Smokeless Tobacco

Ever and 30-Day Use (Males Only)

Grade 10

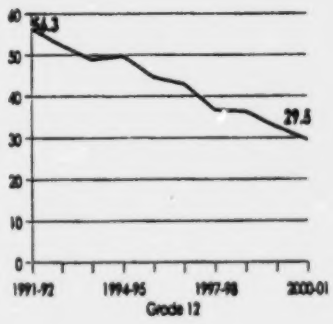
Last year, the downward trend in smokeless tobacco usage rates among 10th-grade males brought both indicators to record low values. In 2000-01 usage rates changed little, with changes of less than 1 point on each measure. The percentage of users in the preceding 30 days sets another record minimum.

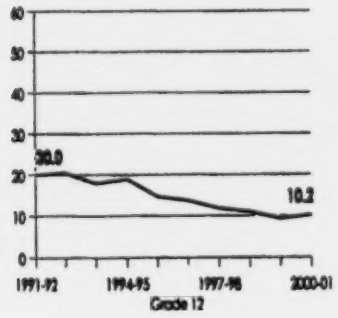




Grade 12

Results for seniors resemble those for sophomores in two ways: First, changes from last year to this are small, and second, both values are low. Ever use in the case of seniors is the lowest it has been in survey history.





PCP*

- *The percentage of **8th-graders** who have used PCP went up, though less than 1 point.*

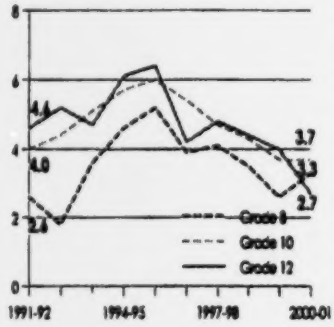
- *The percentage of **10th-graders** who have used PCP remained the same.*

- *The percentage of **seniors** who have used PCP went down 1.3 points to an historic low for 12th-graders in the Kansas City area.*

*PCP: "angel dust, water, wet"

Grades 8, 10, and 12

At all grades, rates of PCP use peaked in 1995-96. They then began to decline and generally continued downward until 1999-00. In 2000-01 the percentages of users at all grades remain comparatively low, and year-to-year changes are small. The usage rate among 8th-graders went up less than 1 point. The usage rate among 10th-graders was unchanged. The usage rate among seniors decreased a little more than a point from that of last year, a statistically significant difference.



Ever use is defined as ever had any PCP in lifetime.

Inhalants*

- *Ever use rates remained at record lows in **grades 8** and **12**.*

- *The rate increased by slightly more than 1 point among **10th-graders**.*

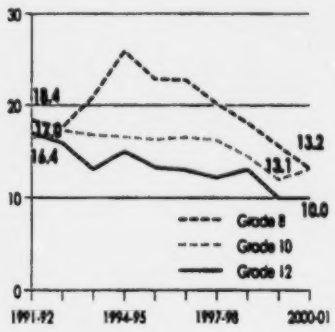
**Inhalants: sniffing glue, paint, gasoline, or other inhalants in order to get high.*

Inhalants

Ever Use*

Grade 8

The findings from 1999-00 yielded a decrease for the sixth year in a row among 8th-graders. The resulting value was at the lowest point in the history of the survey at this grade.



Grade 10

Last year, the percentage of 10th-graders who used inhalants reached its lowest value in the history of this survey. This year the rate increased, but only about 1 point.

Grade 12

The rate of inhalant use by Kansas City area 12th-graders was the same in 2000-01 as it had been the preceding year. It remains at its lowest point in survey history.

**Ever use is defined as ever had any inhalants in lifetime.*

32

LSD*

- *Rates of LSD use remained low at **all grades** (compared to previous years of the survey).*

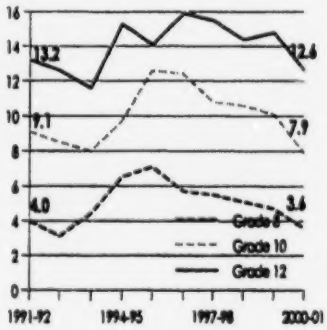
  *—Less than 4% of **8th-graders**,*
  *—Less than 8% for **10th-graders**, and*
  *—Between 12-13% for **12th-graders** report ever use of LSD.*

**LSD, "acid"*

33

Grades 8, 10, and 12

The percentages of LSD users decreased at all grades in 2000-01. The percentage of users among 10th-graders is at a record low for the period of the survey. The decreases from last year to this year for all three grades are statistically significant.



Ever use is defined as ever had any LSD in lifetime.

34

Downers*

- *Rates of "downers" use declined slightly at* ***all three grades.***

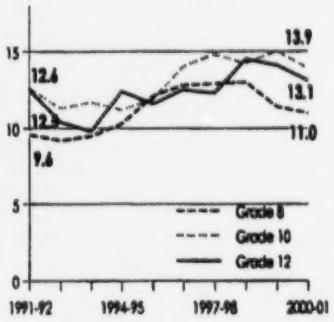
  —About 11% of ***8th-graders,***
  —About 14% of ***10th-graders,*** *and*
  —About 13% of ***12th-graders*** *report ever use of downers.*

**Downers: Sleeping pills, barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaaludes.*

Ever Use*

Grades 8, 10, and 12

Rates of use for downers declined slightly among students at all three grades. However, the trend over time appears to be a very gradual increase. Even so, the difference for 12th-graders is statistically significant.



*Ever use is defined as ever had any downers in lifetime.

36

Uppers*

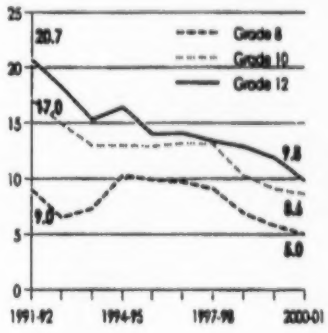
- *Rates of ever use of "uppers" established new lows for the 17 years of the survey.*

  *—Less than 6% of the **8th-graders**,*
  *—Less than 9% of the **10th-graders**, and*
  *—Less than 10% of the **12th-graders** report ever use of uppers.*

**Uppers: speed, meth, crystal, or amphetamines.*

Grades 8, 10, and 12

Last year's results revealed decreases at all grades in rates of uppers use. Rates at all three grades reached record lows. This trend continued in 2000-01.



**Ever use is defined as ever had any uppers in lifetime.*

Opiates*

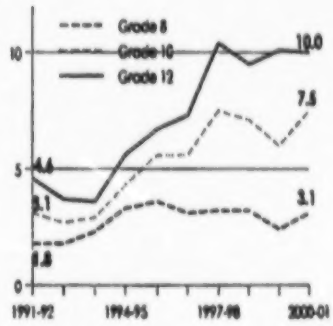
- *The ever use rates at **grades 8 and 10** increased.*

- *Use of opiates among **12th-graders** remained virtually unchanged.*

*Opiates: heroin, morphine, or opium.

Grades 8 and 10

Both 8th- and 10th-graders registered increases in their percentages of opiates use. The 8th-grade rate is almost as high as it was in 1995-96. The 10th-grade rate is more than double the rate of use 10 years ago, and the difference is now statistically significant.



Grade 12

For seniors, opiates use remained virtually unchanged in 2000-01, at 10%. There has been no essential change in the levels of usage reported in the past four years. The value for 12th-graders is more than double what it was 10 years ago.

**Ever use is defined as ever had any opiates in lifetime.*

40

Ecstasy*

- *At **all grades**, rates of ecstasy use are approximately the same as rates of uppers use.*

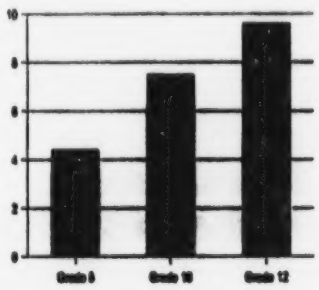
  *—About 4.5% of the **8th-graders**,*
  *—7.5% of the **10th-graders**, and*
  *—9.5% of the **12th-graders** reported ever using ecstasy.*

**Ecstasy: "Adam, XTC, E" or "X"*

Grades 8, 10, and 12

Rates of ecstasy use are highest among seniors and lowest among 8th-graders. All percentages are below 10 points, and rates of use are roughly comparable to rates reported for uppers. The increase in percentage of users is greater between grades 8 and 10 than between grades 10 and 12.

This is the first year of reporting for this substance.



*Ever use is defined as ever had any ecstasy in lifetime.

42

Summary

- *In 2000-01 the overall trend of substance use among high school students in greater Kansas City reached an historic low.*

- *For many drugs, substantial declines were seen for **8th-** and **12th-graders**.*

- *Declining rates were seen for use of LSD, downers, and uppers.*

- *Few changes in marijuana use were seen. It has been increasing steadily.*

- *Another area of concern is in use of opiates, which is not declining.*

- ***Tenth-graders** are often an exception to the declining rates seen overall among **8th-** and **12th-graders**.*

- *Ecstasy use was added to the survey and reported for the first time this year. Kansas City area teens are using ecstasy at rates similar to that of uppers.*

"Soft" Drugs

Given the high level of community concern about teens' use of cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana, the findings for these substances merit special attention. In 2000-01, downward trends in cigarette and alcohol use appeared among 8th- and 12th-graders. Many percentages of 8th- and 12th-grade users of cigarettes and alcohol were at all-time lows on at least one of the three indicators (ever use, 30-day use, and 7-day use). The same was not generally true for 10th-graders, among whom rates were practically unchanged (cigarettes) or a little higher (alcohol).

Marijuana is a different story. No recent trends could be discovered, because at all three grades, changes in the percentages of users have been minimal for some time.

The findings are more gratifying when one looks at the percentages of males who use smokeless tobacco. Here, usage rates have been going down for many years and are now very low.

Another class of so-called "soft" substances is inhalants. A peculiarity of past findings is that the percentages of users have always been highest among 8th-graders and lowest among 12th-graders. This was the case again in 2000-01, but there is more to the story. Six years ago the rate among 8th-graders was about 25%, and the rate among 12th-graders was about 10 points lower. In 2000-01 the rate among 8th-graders was between 10% and 15%, and it exceeded the rate among 12th-graders by only about 3 points. Grade differences have therefore diminished, and inhalants use has dropped most among the youngest users. The finding is welcome, because these are the persons for whom use of inhalants is presumably most dangerous.

"Hard" Drugs

Among the so-called "hard" drugs, declining rates of use and relatively low usage rates (generally less than 10%) were found in 2000-01 for LSD, downers, and uppers. Rates of PCP use changed little, but they were less than 4% at all grades.

Opiates use is another story. Although percentages are not high, there seems to be an upward trend among 10th-graders, among whom the usage rate is now 7.5%. Among 12th-graders the rate appears to have settled at about 10%, following a period of steep increases between 1994-95 and 1997-98.

Other Substances

Steroids have been on the survey for only a few years. These are another class of substances that are reported in higher percentages among 8th-graders than 10th- or 12th-graders. Usage rates have been low, having not yet exceeded 3%. However, if current trends continue, that line may be crossed by 8th-graders next year.

Data on ecstasy have been collected for only one year. The rate of usage of this substance appears similar to that for use of uppers. The 2000-01 findings provide a baseline for future assessments.

Evaluating Usage Rates

On one hand, usage rates have meaning only when compared to a standard. The standard may be rates in preceding years in other communities or in the nation as a whole. For example, results of the Kauffman Teen Survey show that usage rates for ecstasy increase from grade to grade, but they cannot yet be evaluated for trends over time.

However, it may also be said that any amount of substance use is undesirable and only zero percent usage is acceptable. This argument is especially persuasive for particularly dangerous substances.

Some combination of judgments is required. Using comparative standards, a downward trend is favorable, but using an absolute standard of zero usage, much still needs to be done. A case in point is the decline in usage rates of inhalants among 8th-graders. The trend is encouraging, but usage rates are still well above zero.

The situation with respect to cigarettes is similar. Usage rates are coming down, and efforts to reduce them appear to be having a favorable effect.

On an absolute basis, the question of how much is too much cannot be answered by survey data alone. Zero usage of cigarettes and other substances may never be obtainable, but it may provide an ideal to which all programs designed to control substance use should aspire.

Report Cards

KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION REPORT CARD

Community Sample

Administrative Unit:	**Proportional Sample of Community**	Grade: **8**
Comparison Standard:	**None. Data are descriptive only.**	

Substances*	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Cigarettes										
Ever Use	41.1	38.7	41.5	46.8	45.8	46.5	42.3	38.6	32.8	30.9
30-Day Use	21.7	22.1	24.9	30.5	30.4	31.9	25.7	21.2	15.8	15.3
7-Day Use	13.1	13.4	14.9	19.3	19.2	20.5	16.8	13.8	9.7	9.6
Alcohol										
Ever Use	76.1	76.3	73.5	75.3	74.1	74.5	72.4	69.6	66.9	67.0
30-Day Use	39.4	34.4	36.6	41.1	39.9	42.4	36.9	34.8	30.4	30.3
7-Day Use	18.8	16.4	17.9	21.8	20.4	22.3	18.3	17.0	13.1	13.8
Marijuana										
Ever Use	12.8	13.6	19.1	27.4	28.7	31.9	29.6	27.9	23.2	23.5
30-Day Use	5.9	5.8	9.6	15.5	16.3	18.0	15.1	16.5	13.4	13.3
7-Day Use	3.0	3.4	5.8	9.4	9.9	11.7	9.8	10.3	7.8	8.8
Smokeless Tobacco (males)										
Ever Use	33.4	27.3	27.0	29.4	25.8	23.3	16.8	16.1	13.8	10.8
30-Day Use	11.3	10.0	8.4	10.1	8.4	8.0	4.9	6.5	4.8	3.7
Ever Use										
PCP	2.6	1.8	3.6	4.6	5.2	3.9	4.1	3.5	2.6	3.3
Cocaine	2.7	2.2	3.0	4.2	4.0	4.5	4.3	3.7	2.9	2.9
30-Day Cocaine	1.2	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.6
Inhalants	18.4	17.6	20.9	25.9	22.8	22.7	20.2	18.1	15.6	13.2
LSD	4.0	3.1	4.4	6.5	7.1	5.7	5.5	5.1	4.7	3.6
Downers	9.6	9.2	9.5	10.3	12.1	12.8	12.9	13.0	11.4	11.0
Uppers	9.0	6.5	7.3	10.3	9.9	9.7	9.1	6.9	5.8	5.0
Opiates	1.8	1.8	2.3	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.4	3.1
Steroids	–**	–	–	2.7	2.1	1.7	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.8
Ecstasy	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4.4
				CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE						
N	3504	3650	3830	3818	3835	3842	4063	3373	3570	3355
Percent of Total Enrollment	24.9	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	24.3	24.5	23.6	24.9	24.0
Male	51.0	46.9	50.8	52.7	50.3	50.7	50.1	52.7	49.0	49.2
Female	49.0	53.1	49.2	47.3	49.7	49.3	49.9	47.3	51.0	50.8
White	73.5	73.5	71.7	73.0	72.7	71.3	71.2	65.8	66.8	68.1
Black	22.2	22.6	23.6	21.5	21.3	22.5	22.8	26.3	25.3	25.6
Hispanic	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.5	5.3	4.8
Asian	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.5	1.7	1.5
Parental Occupational Level										
Upper	10.8	10.7	11.0	11.2	10.4	9.8	10.1	8.5	9.8	8.3
Upper-Middle	17.2	14.5	14.9	14.0	12.7	10.9	10.3	10.0	10.4	9.1
Middle	42.4	47.8	46.9	48.8	50.3	48.4	49.2	50.6	52.3	53.8
Lower	26.0	22.5	23.3	23.0	22.9	27.1	26.8	27.1	24.2	25.4
Unemployed	3.6	4.6	3.9	3.0	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.3

*All data in upper section are percentages based on reports of use of substance(s) in any amount.

**Dashes indicate that data were not reported for this year.

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KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION REPORT CARD

Community Sample

Administrative Unit: **Proportional Sample of Community** Grade: **10**

Comparison Standard: **None. Data are descriptive only.**

Substances*	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Cigarettes										
Ever Use	49.7	48.9	52.7	52.4	54.4	55.8	53.4	51.0	45.9	45.5
30-Day Use	28.0	28.4	30.7	33.2	33.6	34.9	32.6	31.1	25.4	25.3
7-Day Use	19.9	20.4	22.6	24.2	25.1	26.2	23.3	23.4	18.8	18.5
Alcohol										
Ever Use	86.9	85.0	84.4	84.1	84.8	84.1	81.8	79.6	80.6	79.1
30-Day Use	53.8	52.5	51.9	52.8	51.2	53.0	51.1	47.9	45.2	46.6
7-Day Use	29.3	28.9	28.1	28.8	25.1	29.4	27.8	25.8	22.9	24.9
Marijuana										
Ever Use	26.8	29.7	34.5	40.8	45.4	46.4	44.8	43.7	41.2	39.8
30-Day Use	13.2	17.3	18.7	22.7	26.0	24.7	23.1	24.6	21.5	22.1
7-Day Use	6.6	10.5	11.6	15.0	17.6	17.4	14.6	16.7	14.0	14.9
Smokeless Tobacco (males)										
Ever Use	45.9	41.5	38.4	39.0	35.2	31.7	28.7	24.5	18.9	19.5
30-Day Use	18.9	16.4	13.9	14.5	11.7	11.1	9.9	8.4	8.3	7.0
Ever Use										
PCP	4.0	4.4	5.1	5.7	6.0	5.4	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.7
Cocaine	4.0	3.1	3.7	5.1	5.7	7.1	6.7	6.8	5.1	5.2
30-Day Cocaine	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.5
Inhalants	16.4	17.3	16.8	16.6	16.3	16.5	16.2	14.5	12.0	13.1
LSD	9.1	8.5	8.0	9.7	12.6	12.4	10.8	10.6	10.1	7.9
Downers	12.6	11.3	11.7	11.2	11.9	14.0	14.8	14.2	15.0	13.9
Uppers	17.0	14.9	13.0	13.0	12.9	13.2	13.1	10.3	9.1	8.6
Opiates	3.1	2.7	2.9	4.3	5.6	5.6	7.5	7.1	6.0	7.5
Steroids	–**	–	–	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.9
Ecstasy	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7.5
				CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE						
N	3155	3294	3311	3433	2684	2596	2648	2630	2281	2560
Percent of Total Enrollment	24.9	25.0	25.0	25.0	18.1	17.4	17.5	19.2	17.2	18.3
Male	49.7	47.8	49.1	47.5	49.4	49.5	49.4	48.1	47.9	49.0
Female	50.3	52.2	50.9	52.5	50.6	50.5	50.6	51.9	52.1	51.0
White	72.9	72.9	72.1	69.5	70.6	71.9	77.6	71.3	71.3	75.0
Black	21.9	22.9	23.6	25.7	24.3	23.1	17.9	20.8	21.9	18.7
Hispanic	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.0	3.7	3.9
Asian	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.8	2.2	2.5
Parental Occupational Level										
Upper	11.1	9.8	12.7	12.1	11.6	11.5	11.0	10.4	10.7	11.2
Upper-Middle	15.8	14.5	15.6	15.7	12.4	12.9	13.9	13.6	13.8	12.6
Middle	45.4	48.1	47.5	47.6	50.8	49.6	51.8	53.4	50.8	56.0
Lower	23.8	22.6	20.6	21.6	21.9	22.3	20.3	20.1	21.0	16.6
Unemployed	3.9	5.0	3.6	2.9	3.3	3.8	3.0	2.6	3.7	3.7

*All data in upper section are percentages based on reports of use of substance(s) in any amount.

**Dashes indicate that data were not reported for this year.

KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION REPORT CARD

Community Sample

Administrative Unit: **Proportional Sample of Community** Grade: **12**

Comparison Standard: **None. Data are descriptive only.**

Substances*	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Cigarettes										
Ever Use	58.6	58.4	57.8	59.7	60.7	60.8	58.2	59.5	57.5	55.9
30-Day Use	34.2	35.4	36.4	40.0	38.8	40.9	38.5	38.6	34.0	30.8
7-Day Use	25.5	27.6	28.6	31.9	29.8	32.2	30.5	30.8	27.4	25.7
Alcohol										
Ever Use	91.9	91.2	89.4	89.3	89.9	90.2	88.5	86.9	87.9	88.3
30-Day Use	66.8	62.9	61.2	61.9	60.7	61.9	59.6	58.0	59.7	57.1
7-Day Use	42.4	37.9	36.0	39.0	35.7	39.0	36.9	35.7	36.4	33.8
Marijuana										
Ever Use	39.7	40.0	41.9	46.9	49.6	50.8	51.0	52.2	52.3	50.1
30-Day Use	17.9	20.5	21.3	24.2	25.2	24.7	24.3	26.6	26.5	26.1
7-Day Use	10.9	12.4	13.8	16.0	16.2	16.2	16.7	18.1	17.2	17.1
Smokeless Tobacco (males)										
Ever Use	56.3	52.4	48.9	49.7	44.6	42.9	36.7	36.3	32.6	29.5
30-Day Use	20.0	20.5	17.9	18.9	14.7	13.8	11.9	11.0	9.3	10.2
Ever Use										
PCP	4.6	5.2	4.7	6.1	6.4	4.2	4.8	4.4	4.0	2.7
Cocaine	5.2	4.9	5.7	7.3	7.4	9.4	10.1	10.1	9.0	7.4
30-Day Cocaine	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.0	2.2
Inhalants	17.0	15.9	13.1	15.0	13.3	13.0	12.2	13.1	10.0	10.0
LSD	13.2	12.6	11.6	15.3	14.1	15.9	15.5	14.4	14.8	12.6
Downers	12.5	10.4	9.8	12.4	11.6	12.5	12.3	14.5	14.1	13.1
Uppers	20.7	18.2	15.3	16.4	14.0	14.1	13.4	12.9	11.9	9.8
Opiates	4.6	3.7	3.6	5.6	6.7	7.3	10.4	9.5	10.1	10.0
Steroids	–**	–	–	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.9
Ecstasy	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9.6
CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE										
N	2191	2134	2078	2200	2304	1968	2274	2068	2200	2372
Percent of Total Enrollment	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	17.7	19.1	18.9	20.0	19.9
Male	47.6	47.0	47.5	46.5	45.7	48.1	45.0	46.0	46.0	47.0
Female	52.4	53.0	52.5	53.5	54.3	51.9	55.0	54.0	54.0	53.0
White	76.4	76.3	76.4	77.7	73.4	72.8	77.3	77.4	74.9	76.5
Black	19.6	19.0	18.8	18.3	22.4	22.3	18.5	18.0	19.4	18.4
Hispanic	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.4	2.5	2.8
Asian	–**	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.6	2.1	2.2
Parental Occupational Level										
Upper	14.5	12.6	12.7	14.5	14.0	13.6	11.6	13.1	13.5	11.8
Upper-Middle	18.1	17.7	17.0	15.6	14.7	16.1	14.4	13.5	13.0	13.2
Middle	43.1	47.5	47.5	49.6	46.7	49.0	52.8	52.9	53.6	56.5
Lower	20.6	17.8	19.3	16.9	20.3	17.3	17.0	17.0	16.3	14.6
Unemployed	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.4	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.4	3.6	3.9

*All data in upper section are percentages based on reports of use of substance(s) in any amount.

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